

Three Questions for Everglades Restoration Science Issues Workshop
24 June 2008 - FAU
Draft/21may/jco

The 2006 report of the National Research Council's Everglades Committee (CISRERP) states (p. 38) that the "Everglades watershed and the surrounding landscape" is continuing to change, and that these changes "...have moved the Everglades further from its historical defining characteristics and increased the human pressure on the system..."

Question to the Workshop: What are specific examples of components of the natural system – within both the freshwater and estuarine landscapes – that are continuing to experience undesirable changes due to anthropogenic influences, and what is the nature of these changes (specifically what has changed; at what temporal/spatial scales; magnitude...)?

The 2006 NRC report states (p. 59) that the changes "...of the past 10 – 15 years have made the restoration effort more rather than less difficult in many ways." **Question to the Workshop:** What are the risks – including irreversible changes - to achieving the goals of the Everglades restoration program that could occur as a consequence of further delay in implementing those projects that are designed to produce direct, measurable restoration responses (e.g., Decomp and C-111)?

The October 2007 report, Recommendations and Conclusions from an Ad Hoc Senior Scientists Workshop on "Restoration Priorities", included the statement that "A fully successful CERP Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Project (DECOMP) will provide the strongest and most desirable ecosystem restoration responses in the system of south Florida wetlands, and should be the highest priority for achieving maximum ecosystem restoration benefits." **Question to the Workshop:** What are the specific restoration projects, sub-projects and/or areas of the greater Everglades ecosystem that should have priority for the earliest possible refinement and/or implementation of key projects in order to slow or reverse on-going, undesirable changes?

Note to invited participants: If you are unable to attend the 24 June workshop at FAU, and would like to contribute to the objectives of the workshop, a format for submitting your answers to the conference questions – in advance of the workshop – will soon be provided.